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LETTER DATED 13 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia of 12 August 1998 concerning the false allegations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania of 10 August 1998 against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

98-23824 (E) 140898

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Annex

Statement issued on 12 August 1998 by the Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia denied most energetically the untrue statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Albania of 10 August 1998, which is replete with brazen falsehoods and unfounded allegations against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The allegations of the Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs that a Yugoslav military helicopter and a plane violated the airspace of the Republic of Albania are fabrications calculated to distract international attention from Albania's own responsibility for aiding and abetting terrorism in the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs regrets to note that this is not the first time that the official authorities of the Republic of Albania - counting on the benevolence of powerful mentors - have resorted to spreading brazen falsehoods, aimed at concealing their clear responsibility for instigating tensions, supporting separatism and terrorism and fomenting illusions of a "Greater Albania". This constitutes a great delusion and a danger for the region.

Facts are eloquent proof. From the beginning of 1998, the Albanian side provoked almost 100 serious border incidents. Turning a deaf ear to Yugoslav protests, the Albanian side not only did nothing to prevent the smuggling of terrorists and arms into the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, but also refused to take part in the work of local mixed commissions, provided for by the Agreement on Measures to Prevent Border Incidents. This constitutes a flouting and a violation of international obligations.

The international public well knows that northern Albania is the region in which terrorists and terrorist gangs, including mercenaries from third countries and the citizens of Albania are received, recruited, armed and given subversive/terrorist training and from which they are dispatched to the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in an organized way. This is borne out also by the report of a special United Nations commission which visited Albania from 11 to 14 July 1998.

The Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs recalls once again the international obligations of responsibility of Albania and calls on it to cease dispatch of terrorists and arms and anti-Yugoslav propaganda, for this practice and policy will neither lessen nor cover up the depth of its internal conflicts and instability, which constitute the real danger for the security of the region.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is committed to the policy of good neighbourliness and equal, mutually beneficial cooperation with its neighbour countries. No threat to anyone has ever ensued from the Yugoslav territory. However, in upholding the constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and international law, the competent Yugoslav authorities will also respond most resolutely to each and every attempt to threaten the territorial integrity of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the future.